

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
February 6, 2008

1. and 2. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Chair Robert Best called the meeting to order and asked for corrections to the minutes of the December 5, 2007 meeting as well as the January 14, 2008 Special Called Meeting. There were no corrections, and both sets of minutes were approved as written.

3. Invited Guest

Melissa Gentry, Director of Parents Programs, Department of Student Life, described the Dinner Dialogues program. This program, sponsored by the Office of Parents Programs, encourages the interaction between faculty members and their students by reimbursing faculty who invite students to their homes for dinner. Faculty members may be reimbursed up to \$10 per student. Since the program began, there have been nearly 60 dinners hosted by faculty. Student feedback has been very positive.

4. Reports of Committees

a. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor Ina Rae Hark, Chair

Professor Hark (English) presented changes in curriculum and/or courses within: College of Arts and Sciences, College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management, and the College of Social Work [see Attachment 1, pp. 8 – 17]. All motions carried.

b. Faculty Welfare Committee, Professor Beth Bilderback, Chair

Professor Bilderback (Libraries) announced that all 32 of the cardiovascular screenings have been taken. These screenings are offered by the Department of Exercise Science and funded by the Faculty Welfare Committee. Due to the positive response, the committee will likely offer the screenings again next year.

5. Reports of Officers

President Andrew Sorensen

President Sorensen announced that USC will be hosting two visiting scholars beginning February 10. Peter Beattie, former Premier of the Australian state of Queensland, will be working with the School of Business Administration for several months. His wife, Heather, will be at the School of Nursing. President Sorensen will be the commencement speaker at Queensland University in July.

Various University programs have again received high international rankings. In the *Financial Times*'s Global MBA Rankings, the Moore School of Business MBA program is ranked number 55. This is up 17 places from last year's ranking of 72. Within the

United States, the program is ranked number 25 (last year's ranking was 45). USC's International MBA program is still ranked number 2 in the world, and number one among public universities worldwide.

The President announced that USC Upstate will be establishing a Business School in downtown Spartanburg. The school will be named after George Dean Johnson, Jr., who gave \$5 million towards the project.

President Sorensen encouraged the faculty to take advantage of the Dinner Dialogues program described earlier by Melissa Gentry. He recounted a story about some students who rang the President's doorbell at 10 pm asking for a cup of sugar to make sweet tea. This is a testament to how comfortable USC students feel in their interactions with faculty.

Provost Mark Becker

Provost Becker thanked the faculty who participated in the December commencement ceremony, and emphasized the significance of faculty participation in commencements.

The Provost mentioned that a press conference announcing a scholarship program that will cover the difference between tuition costs and LIFE scholarships for in-state freshmen majoring in engineering and computing was taking place in the College of Engineering and Computing simultaneous to the Faculty Senate meeting. The new Engineering and Computing Expanded Life Scholarship (ECELS) program will provide a minimum of 100 freshmen with LIFE scholarships the opportunity to attend the university tuition-free beginning in the 2008 Fall Semester. The support for the ECELS program is being provided through gifts from individual donors, businesses, industries and the College of Engineering and Computing. This scholarship program marks an important step forward in the College's efforts to help alleviate the shortage of scientists and engineers in our state and nation.

Faculty who authored books in the past two years were reminded to contact the Office of the Provost in order to be included on the invitation list for the reception for faculty authors to be held at the President's house in late March.

Provost Becker described the recent USC Film Premiere of Professor Laura Kissel's documentary entitled "Beyond the Classroom: China." Professor Kissel chronicled the study-abroad experiences of 23 Capstone scholars who participated in the 2007 Maymester Capstone Abroad trip to China lead by Professor Karl Gerth. The Provost lauded the students and Professors Gerth and Kissel for their respective contributions to this excellent documentary that highlights the benefits of study-abroad experiences. Furthermore, he encouraged faculty to consider leading future Maymester courses in a study abroad framework.

Two dean searches (Dean of Libraries, and Dean of the College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management) have been suspended until a new President has been named.

Meanwhile, the Provost expressed confidence in the leadership of the interim deans. The search for Dean of the Arnold School of Public Health continues at this time.

6. Report of the Chair

Chair Best announced that a plant in memory of John Olsgaard was sent to the family on behalf of the Senate. The thank-you note from Jane Olsgaard was made available for Senators to read.

Dr. Best also announced that the Board of Trustees has agreed to allow Dianne Johnson (English) to serve as an alternate on the Presidential Candidate Search Committee. Professor Johnson was the runner-up in the USC faculty member election. Marlene Wilson (Medicine) was the winner. Dr. Best encouraged the faculty to send input regarding desired qualifications of an incoming president to: Robert Best, Marlene Wilson, Dianne Johnson, or Val Lumans (all of whom are members of the Search Committee).

7. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Announcements

A faculty member from the School of Music invited the faculty to attend an opera in the School of Music's Recital hall that evening as well as Sunday at 3 pm.

The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2008 at 3:00 pm in the Law School Auditorium.

10. Adjournment.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting.